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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/816,466

03/31/2004

Tian Wang

3382-67640-01

1042

26119 7590 05/29/2009

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EXAMINER

OPSASNICK, MICHAEL N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2626

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/29/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/816,466	Applicant(s) WANG ET AL.	
	Examiner MICHAEL N. OPSASNICK	Art Unit 2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 28-33,35-38 and 40-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 28-33,35-38 and 40-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

2. Claims 28-33,35-38,40-47 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 28-33,35-38,40-47 are directed to a processing tool that contains speech parameters without changing a state or transformation, which does not fall into one of the enumerated four categories of patent eligible subject matter recited in 35 U.S.C. 101 (process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter).

Claims 28-33,35-38,40-47 are not directed toward:

1) a process (nothing is processed/transformed – the claims are toward a processing tool that contains speech parameters); a statutory "process" under 35 USC 101 must (a) be tied to another statutory category (such as a manufacture or a machine), or (b) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing. Claims 28-47 neither transform underlying subject matter nor positively recite structure associated with another statutory category, and therefore do not define a statutory process.);

2) a machine there are no claim elements towards an appropriate apparatus, e.g. the elements of a device that would perform the claim steps.

3) a manufacture (no claim elements pertain to an output product) nor a

4) a composition of matter (the claims are toward a processing tool that contains speech parameters and not a composition of matter).

Furthermore, the claims are directed to a method which is a speech processing tool that contains speech parameters and as claimed, is a calculation to contain mathematical representations of speech, where the claims do not perform an underlying transformation of the underlying state to a different state or thing. If the acts of a claimed process manipulate only numbers, abstract concepts or ideas, or signals representing any of the foregoing, the acts are not being applied to appropriate subject matter (Benson, 409 U.S. at 71-72, 175, USPQ at 676). Furthermore, claims define nonstatutory processes if they simply manipulate abstract ideas (Warmerdam, 33 F.3d at 1360, 31 USPQ2d at 1759). As examples of statutory transformations of underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing, (Alappat, 33 F.3d at 1542-4, 31 USPQ2d at 1556-7), the claimed invention as a whole is directed to a combination of interrelated elements which combine to form a machine for converting discrete waveform data samples into antialiased pixel illumination intensity data to be displayed on a display means; in *Arrhythmia*, 958 F.2d, 22 USPQ at 1037, the claimed transformation of data represented the condition of a patient's heart; in *State Street* (149 F.3d at 1373-73, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02), the claimed transformation of data by a machine through a series of

Art Unit: 2626

mathematical calculations into a final share price momentarily fixed for recording and reporting purposes and even accepted and relied upon by regulatory authorities and in subsequent trades.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 28-33,35-38,40-47 are allowed over the prior art of record.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: As per the independent claims in claims 28-33,35-38,40-47, the claim recitations pertaining to the relationship between forward error correcting parameters and the limited parameters in the intraframe are not explicitly taught by the prior art of record.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 2/20/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. As per applicants arguments against the 101 rejection, examiner disagrees with applicants assessment and notes that 1) in the Abele decision, "the transformation test does not require any transformation of the underlying physical object" is a comment that pertains to the object itself (In Abele, the bones, organs, body tissues, etc.), 2) In Abele, "the transformation of that raw data into a particular visual depiction of a physical object on a display was sufficient to render.....patent-eligible" pertains to the fact that there is an underlying transformation of the underlying state or thing - the transformation of raw data into a visual depiction on a display and

3) the current claim amendments fail to (a) tie to another statutory category (such as a manufacture or a machine), or (b) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing; -- the current claim amendments attempting to tie the method to a machine – i.e., “in a speech processing tool operated on a computing device”, “using the computing device”, “usable for playback of the speech signal” is in “for use” format and as such, is non-functional/descriptive in nature; and the current claim amendments attempting to show a transformation, i.e., “the frame representing audio samples taken from the speech signal, the processing a frame” is also non-functional/descriptive in nature, and does not claim an active step of transforming the underlying data.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 2626

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Opsasnick, telephone number (571)272-7623, who is available Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Richemond Dorvil, can be reached at (571)272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Michael N. Opsasnick/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2626
5/26/2009